

THE
WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1902.

STANDISH,

23rd February, 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for year 1902.

I desire to again thank you for the assistance you have been kind enough to extend to me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. WILSON, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council, Wigan.*

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1902.

TABLE I.

Shevington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,728 acres.
Wrightington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,916 „
Haigh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,135 „
Parbold	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,159 „
Dalton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,104 „
Worthington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	659 „
										<hr/> 11,701 acres. <hr/>

TABLE II.

	<i>Population at Census, 1901.</i>						<i>Estimated Population July 1st, 1902.</i>			
Shevington	1,759	...	...	1,768
Wrightington	1,868	...	...	1,909
Haigh	1,269	...	...	1,366
Parbold	579	...	...	583
Dalton	480	...	...	431
Worthington	258	...	...	266
						<hr/> 6,213 <hr/>	<hr/> 6,323 <hr/>			

TABLE III.

	<i>Total Births Registered.</i>						<i>Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population.</i>			
Shevington	62	...	...	35·06
Wrightington	54	...	...	28·28
Haigh	44	...	...	32·21
Parbold	8	...	...	13·72
Dalton	19	...	...	44·08
Worthington	9	...	...	37·59
						<hr/> 196 <hr/>				

TABLE IV.

	<i>Deaths Registered.</i>						<i>Death Rate per 1,000 of Population.</i>			
Shevington	31	...	...	17·53
Wrightington	22	...	...	11·52
Haigh	25	...	...	18·30
Parbold	4	...	...	6·86
Dalton	10	...	...	23·20
Worthington	1	...	...	3·75
						<hr/> 93 <hr/>				

TABLE V.

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.

	<i>Under 1 year.</i>	<i>1 and under 5.</i>	<i>5 and under 15.</i>	<i>15 and under 25.</i>	<i>25 and under 65.</i>	<i>Over 65.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Shevington	9	6	1	1	6	8	31
Wrightington	5	3	—	1	6	7	22
Haigh	7	4	3	4	3	4	25
Parbold	—	—	1	—	2	1	4
Dalton	4	1	—	—	4	1	10
Worthington	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

TABLE VI.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

	SHEVINGTON. WRIGHTINGTON.		HAIGH.		PARBOLD.		DALTON.		WORTHINGTON.	
	Notifica- tions.	Deaths.	Notifica- tions.	Deaths.	Notifica- tions.	Deaths.	Notifica- tions.	Deaths.	Notifica- tions.	Deaths.
Smallpox	...	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
Scarlatina	...	13	...	11	8	...	—	—	10	—
Diphtheria	...	3	...	1	8	...	1	1	1	—
Croup...	...	1	...	2	2	...	—	—	—	—
Typhus	...	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
Enteric	...	4	...	2	—	...	—	—	—	—
Continued	...	1	...	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
Puerperal	...	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	1	—
Cholera	...	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	4	...	8	1	...	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
Zymotic Enteritis	...	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
Total	...	26	...	25	19	...	1	1	...	12

TABLE VII.

							Infantile Deaths.				Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births.
Shevington	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	145.16
Wrightington	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	92.59
Haigh	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	159.09
Parbold	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	—
Dalton	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	210.52
Worthington	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	—
							26				

TABLE VIII.

CAUSES OF DEATH OTHER THAN ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

			<i>Shevington.</i>	<i>Wrightington.</i>		<i>Haigh.</i>		<i>Parbold.</i>		<i>Dalton.</i>		<i>Worthington.</i>		<i>Total.</i>	
Phthisis	1	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	2
Respiratory Diseases			7	...	3	...	5	...	1	...	1	...	—	...	17
Heart Disease	...		1	...	2	...	2	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	6
Influenza	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Injuries	2	...	—	...	2	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	4
All other Diseases...			13	...	14	...	13	...	3	...	7	...	2	...	52
Total	...		24	...	19	...	23	...	4	...	9	...	2	...	81

Births.—These numbered 196, an increase of 29 over last year, the largest number being registered at Shevington, but Dalton has the highest rate, viz. 44.8, whilst Parbold had the lowest rate, 13.72.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths was 93, being 11 less than in 1901. As in births, Shevington is at the head of the list with 31 deaths, but Haigh has the highest rate, 23.2, and Worthington the lowest, with only 1 death and a rate of 3.75.

Zymotic Diseases.—The cases of infectious disease notified shows a considerable increase over the year 1901. In all 83 cases were notified as against 51 during the previous year. The increase is accounted for by outbreaks of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, the former being prevalent in the districts of Shevington, Wrightington, Haigh, and Worthington, and the latter in Haigh (8 cases), and Shevington (3 cases). The deaths resulting were 15 in number. I would point out that Parbold has been free from infectious disease of any kind during the past year, whilst during the previous year only 1 case was notified, which is an excellent bill of health. I am glad to say we have had no cases of Smallpox.

Death rate from 7 principal Zymotic Diseases.—The affections under this head include Scarlet Fever, Measles, Fever (Typhus, Typhoid, and Continued), Whooping Cough, Enteritis, Diphtheria, and Smallpox. They together give rise to 15 deaths, which gives a Zymotic death rate of 2.37 per 1,000 population, which is rather high for a rural district.

Infantile Death Rate.—The number of Deaths occurring in children under 1 year of age was 26. The largest number occurred in Shevington (9), Haigh coming next with 7, Wrightington and Dalton with 5 and 4 respectively. The rate per 1,000 births (127.55) for the whole of the township is low, but that for Dalton alone, 210.52, is excessive.

Deaths over 65 years.—There has been a slight falling off in the number of old people, 21 being recorded, against 26 for the previous year.

Phthisis.—The death rate from this disease shows a gratifying decrease, only 2 being registered, as compared with 7 for 1901. Deaths from Respiratory diseases generally show a slight diminution, 17 deaths being registered against 20 for 1901.

Heart Disease.—Only 6 deaths took place from this cause, being a decrease of 2 over the previous year's number.

Influenza.—Mild cases of this complaint occurred, but there was no virulent outbreak such as one was accustomed to a few years ago, and no deaths were ascribed to it.

Inquests.—4 deaths were due to other than natural causes, and were all due to drowning. 2 occurred in Haigh and 2 in Shevington.

The district is of a wholly rural character. Some of the townships, such as Haigh, Dalton, and portions of Wrightington occupy elevated positions, whilst Worthington, Parbold, and portions of Shevington are low lying.

The country is well supplied with water-courses, which, from the contour of the land have good fall, thus affording good means of drainage. In spite of this, the country is of a somewhat damp character, and for this reason it is prejudicial to persons suffering from Phthisis or other Respiratory diseases.

Parbold is low lying, well sheltered and has a mild and warm climate and is much sought, and rightly so, as a temporary or permanent residence for those in delicate health.

Dalton possesses many of the advantages of Parbold with a more bracing climate, and I am somewhat surprised that these advantages are not more sought by those in search of health. Portions of Wrightington have much to commend them for climate and position, but this township has hitherto been handicapped by the absence of a regular water supply, this drawback will, I hope, be remedied before my next Annual Report becomes due.

House Accommodation.—This is adequate for the requirements. There are no thickly populated districts, and, consequently, overcrowding is almost unknown. Some of the oldest property is to be found in the Crook district of Shevington; whilst an excellent example of what dwellings for working classes may be for appearance, comfort, and good sanitation, is to be found in the property erected by the Standish Company, Limited, in the township of Haigh. As dwelling houses are mostly widely scattered there is plenty of air space for ventilation, and the surroundings are mostly clean and well kept. Plans for the erection for all new dwellings are submitted to the Council and their erection carried out under the supervision of an official of the Authority.

Sewerage and Drainage.—In the past this has been by means of cesspools and drainage into water-courses, but the Council have before them plans for the sewerage of the various districts comprising the Authority, and for the treatment of the sewage therefrom.

Excrement Disposal.—This is used for the manuring of agricultural land and of which there is an adequate quantity. The removal is carried out in the various districts by contract.

Water Supply.—Shevington has a constant supply of pure water from the Anglezark reservoirs of the Liverpool Corporation, under an arrangement with the Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council. The water is of the purest quality, and all precautions are taken against risk of pollution. Haigh and Parbold have each their own supply, which, in both cases is constant and of good quality. Dalton has plenty of water which is drawn from wells. Wrightington has hitherto likewise been dependant on wells and other private sources of supply, with the exception of the Appley Bridge portion of the township, which has a good and regular supply from the Upholland Urban District Council. Arrangements have been made with the Hon. Robert Gerard Dicconson, the land owner of Wrightington, for a public supply for that township, and a scheme is now before the Council for its distribution to the inhabitants.

Lodging-Houses.—There are none within the district.

Slaughter-Houses.—There are 2 private slaughter-houses, and both are clean and well conducted.

Infectious Diseases.—The Notification Act is in force throughout the district, but isolation hospital accommodation is only provided for Smallpox, by means of a cottage which has been maintained by the Authority for some years, with, up to the present, only one case for its reception (9 years ago), and the Council have before them plans for the erection of a temporary hospital in connection with it, should it unfortunately be required; and the Council strongly resent the erection of a large Smallpox hospital, as proposed by the County Medical Officer, perhaps in their midst, which would seriously prejudice many of their natural advantages, and are prepared themselves to deal with any outbreak of this nature which may occur.

Factories and Workshops.—These have all been inspected, all are well provided with separate closet accommodation for the sexes, and are well drained, lighted, and ventilated, and satisfactory as to general cleanliness.

Food and Drugs Act.—No action has been necessary under this heading.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.—No action has been necessary under this Act.

<i>Nuisances.</i> —Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	57
„ Notices served	...	...	28
„ Legal Proceedings taken	...	...	0
„ Canal Boats inspected..	...	...	20
„ Complaints	...	...	0

